

Red Pines – Final Environmental Impact Statement - Errata
Nez Perce National Forest, Red River Ranger District

ERRATA SHEET FOR RED PINES FEIS

SUMMARY

Page v. Summary Table. See attached new Summary and replace Soil Restoration acres with the following values.

Associated Restoration See Appendix H for details Proposed (Discretionary)	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E
Soil Restoration, including road decommissioning ⁴ (acres)	555 (26)	521 (63)	476 (108)	577 (0)

CHAPTER I

Pages viii to ix. Table of Contents. Page numbers are off one page, from Page 3-264 to 3-334.

Pages xiii to xiv. List of Tables. Page numbers are off one page, from Table III-114 to Table III-149.

CHAPTER II - ALTERNATIVES

Page 2-9 (Section 2.3.3.2).

Paragraph 2, first sentence. Change acres of soil restoration from **453 to 556**; to **476 to 577**.

Page 2-12. Table II-1 Proposed Activities for Alternatives B, C, D and E.

Replace Soil Restoration acres with the following values.

Associated Restoration See Appendix H for details Proposed (Discretionary)	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E
Soil Restoration, including road decommissioning ⁴ (acres)	555 (26)	521 (63)	476 (108)	577 (0)

Page 2-24. Table II-5 Issue Alternative Comparison.

Replace the predicted sediment yield values in the year 2005. Change Alternative C from 31 to 23 % over base. Change, Alternative D from 28 to 29 % over base.

CHAPTER III – AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

SECTION 3.4 SOILS.

Page 3-31. Table III-7. Cumulative Effect Indicators of Soil Compaction and Displacement.

Alternative B, Acres of soil restoration on old harvest units. Most are associated with road to be decommissioned. Change, 164 to 162 acres.

SECTION 3.5 WATER QUALITY.

Page 3-66. Table III-26. Sediment Yield Comparisons.

Subwatershed, Lowest Main Red River. Replace the predicted sediment yield values in the year 2005. Change, Alternative C from 31 to 32 % over base. Change Alternative D from 28 to 29 % over base.

Page 3-70. Table III-28. Cumulative Sediment Yield for Red River Watershed.

Replace the predicted sediment yield values in the year 2005 Peak Activity. Change, Alternative D from 28 to 29 % over base.

SECTION 3.6 FISHERIES.

Page 3-84. (Section 3.6.2.1 Forest Service Manual 2670 Direction).

Delete paragraph and replace with the following.

FSM 2670 directs the Forest Service to seek to conserve endangered and threatened species, and shall utilize its authorities in furtherance of the Endangered Species Act and to avoid actions which may cause a species to become threatened or endangered. The FSM 2670 also calls for the Forest Service to maintain viable populations of all native and desirable nonnative wildlife, fish, and plant species in habitats distributed throughout their geographic range on system lands.

Page 3-95. (Section 3.6.6.2).

Paragraph 3, Change, Table III-19 to Table III-36.

Paragraph 7. Change, Table III-19 to Table III-36.

Paragraph 8. Change, Table III-2 to Table III-36.

Page 3-96. Paragraph 6. Change, Table III-3 to Table III-36.

Page 3-102. (Section 3.6.7.1). Paragraph 7.

Change, Table III-32 and III-33, to Table III-38 and Table III-39.

Page 3-104. (Section 3.6.7.1). Paragraph 2. Change, page 6, to page III-8.

Page 3-108. (Section 3.6.7.2). Paragraph 4. Change, page III-6 to page III-8.

Page 3-113. (Section 3.6.8.1). Paragraph 5.

Add the following reference to the end of the paragraph: (Cochner and Claire 2004).

Page 3-114. (Section 3.6.9.1. Forest Service Manual 2670 Direction).

Delete paragraph and replace with the following.

FSM 2670 directs the Forest Service to seek to conserve endangered and threatened species, and shall utilize its authorities in furtherance of the Endangered Species Act and to avoid actions which may cause a species to become threatened or endangered. The FSM 2670 also calls for the Forest Service to maintain viable populations of all native and desirable nonnative wildlife, fish, and plant species in habitats distributed throughout their geographic range on system lands.

Red Pines – Final Environmental Impact Statement - Errata
Nez Perce National Forest, Red River Ranger District

SECTION 3.10 RARE PLANTS.

Page 3-163. (Section 3.10.5.1 Sensitive Species).
Paragraph 7, Change, Table III to Table III-64.

Page 3-171. (Section 3.10.6.2). Table III-65 Comparison of Potential Sensitive Plant Habitat Affected by Action Alternatives (acres).
Idaho Barren Strawberry, Alternative C, Change Fuels reduction from 1034 to 2548 acres.

Page 3-175. (Section 3.10.7 Sensitive Plant Effects Determinations).
Paragraph 6, first sentence. Replace the text, in table below to in Table III-66.

Page 3-183. (Section 3.11.5.1 Current Infestations).
Paragraph 4. Change, Table III-68 to Table III-67.

SECTION 3.13 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.

Page 3-259. (Section 3.13.2 Regulatory Framework).
Paragraph 7, Change to Section Header 3.13.2.2. Nez Perce National Forest Plan (Forest Plan).

Page 3-261. (Section 3.13.5.1)
Paragraph 10, Change, Sections 3.1.3.3, 3.1.5.5 and 3.1.6.3 to Sections 3.5.3.3, 3.5.5.5 and 3.5.6.3.

Page 3-266. (Section 3.13.6.1).
Paragraph 1. Change, Table III-4 to III-117.
Paragraph 5. Change, section 3.1.5 to Section 3.13.5.

Page 3-267. (Section 3.13.6.1).
Paragraph 3. Change, Table III-4 to III-117.
Paragraph 5. Change Table III-3 to Table III-116. Change Table III-4 to Table III-117.

Page 3-268. (Section 3.13.6.1).
Paragraph 4. Change Table III-4 to Table III-117.

Page 3-268. (Section 3.13.6.2).
Paragraph 7. Change Table III-5 to Table III-118.

SECTION 3.17 WILDERNESS, INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS, AREAS WITH UNROADED CHARACTERISTICS

Page 3-309. (Section 3.17.2.3).

Paragraph 4, second sentence. Delete this sentence and replace with the following text.

These determinations have been completed previously through, the 1976 RARE II Inventory and the 1987 Nez Perce Forest Plan (USDA-FS 1987a), and are not appropriate for reconsideration at the project level.

Paragraph 7, first sentence. Delete this sentence and replace with the following text.

Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) used in this analysis were identified from the current management direction found in the Forest Plan (1987a).

Page 3-315. (Section 3.17.3.1).

Paragraph 3, first sentence. Delete this sentence and replace with the following text.

Eighty-five percent (85%) of the Red Pines project area is identified as Other National Forest System Lands in the current management direction found in the Forest Plan (1987a).

Paragraph 5, last sentence. Delete this sentence and replace with the following text.

These determinations have been completed previously through, the 1976 RARE II Inventory and the 1987 Nez Perce Forest Plan (USDA-FS 1987a), and are not appropriate for reconsideration at the project level.

Page 3-323. (Section 3.17.3.6).

Paragraph 6, last sentence. Delete this sentence and replace with the following text.

These areas are currently identified as other National Forest System Lands in the current management direction found in the Forest Plan (1987a).

SUMMARY

The Forest Service has prepared this Final Environmental Impact Statement to disclose potential effects of the proposed action and the alternatives to the proposed action within and surrounding the Red Pines project area in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations. The project area is located within the Red River Ranger District on the Nez Perce National Forest in Idaho. This Final Environmental Impact Statement discloses direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts and irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources that would result from implementation of the proposed action and alternatives.

The project area is located within the Red River watershed within the Nez Perce National Forest in Idaho County. Portions of the Red River watershed are located in the Clearwater Mountains of the Rocky Mountain physiographic province. The Red River watershed is located south and southeast of Elk City, and includes National Forest System lands.

Purpose and Objectives

The Forest Plan provides direction for the management of the Red Pines project area and the desired future condition. The purpose and need for this project was determined after comparing the desired future condition and the existing condition of the Red Pines project area. The area's existing condition was determined using field data, findings from the Red River Ecosystem Analysis at the Watershed Scale (EAWS) and the South Fork Clearwater Subbasin Landscape Assessment (SFLA). These documents are discussed later in this chapter.

The purpose of the Red Pines project is to reduce existing and potential fuel loads to reduce the effects of potential large-scale wildfire, improve the safety and effectiveness of firefighters in fire suppression activities, and contribute to the economic and social well being of residents and visitors within proximity to the project area. Specifically, this project is needed to:

- Remove dead and dying trees, which contribute to existing and future fuel loads.
- Reduce timber stand densities, by thinning dead and live trees.
- Reduce the level of ladder fuels and other flammable materials that would produce crown fires.
- Reduce the risk of high severity fires in areas important for public safety or cultural or environmental values.
- Maintain existing fire resistant tree species in areas where understory trees are encroaching due to fire exclusion.

The Proposed Action

The Red Pines project proposes to reduce forest fuels through treatment on up to 6,466 acres within Red River watershed, including activity fuels treatments. The watershed restoration associated with this project would include various types of restoration such as: up to 104 miles of road decommissioning, up to 547 acres of soil restoration, stream crossing improvements and various riparian activities. The following table is a summary of proposed activities associated with this project. Numbers in the columns indicate the amount of proposed activities and the numbers in parenthesis are discretionary activities (dependent on available funding).

The Issues

The Forest Service worked closely with the public to identify issues and concerns. A comment period last fall produced 14 letters from the public, and state and federal agencies. These responses were condensed into three substantive issue areas. These areas are: fuel reduction effectiveness, effects to water quality and fish habitat, and forest plan amendments.

The Alternatives

The five alternatives in this document were analyzed by their effect to the substantive issue areas. Indicators were developed to compare the effects. A summary of the effects can be found in the following section. The summary table below describes the proposed treatments and also shows the total

Red Pines - Final Environmental Impact Statement - Errata

acres to be treated by alternative. Alternative E, (the preferred alternative) includes both proposed watershed restoration actions, and additional watershed restorations actions that have been analyzed and may be implemented if funding is available (discretionary). The minimum watershed restoration that will be completed as part of this alternative is what is displayed as proposed.

Alternative Overview for the Red Pines Project

Proposed Activity and Logging System			Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E
Acres of Fuel Reduction by Prescription Type ¹	Irregular Shelterwood / Shelterwood	Cable	2924	2165	1664	1191
		Ground	979	824	681	681
	Clearcut	Cable	1073	864	621	622
		Ground	1324	1202	977	919
	Pre-commercial thin	Hand	166	120	42	42
	Total Acres Fuel Reduction		6466	5129	3985	3454
Acres of activity fuels treatment ¹	Underburn		3603	2837	2159	1686
	Broadcast burn		560	350	221	220
	Excavator Pile		2170	1893	1564	1505
	Hand pile		134	95	42	42
Miles temporary road construction ²			36	36	25	18
Miles road reconditioning ³			92	92	79	79
Associated Restoration See Appendix H for details Proposed (Discretionary)			Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E
Miles existing road decommissioning ⁴			99 (5)	93 (12)	86 (19)	104
Soil Restoration, including road decommissioing ⁴ (acres)			555 (26)	521 (63)	476 (108)	577
Mine rehabilitation (18 hard rock, 3 placer inactive sites)			21	21	21	21
Stream crossing improvement (sites) – Fish passage barriers, upgrade or replacement			43 (13)	43 (13)	43 (13)	43 (13)
Culvert/log bridge - removal (sites)			19 (2)	19 (2)	19 (2)	19 (2)
Riparian restoration (miles of stream)			20	20	20	20
Fencing (miles adjacent to streams)			1 (5)	1 (5)	1 (5)	1 (5)
In-stream fish structure maintenance (miles of stream)			8	8	8	8
Large Woody Material placement – instream (miles)			28	28	28	28
In-stream restoration (miles of stream) – “Narrows”			2	2	2	2
Recreation site improvement (acres)			15	15	15	15
Rock quarry restoration (site)			1	1	1	1
Sediment trap decommissioning (site)			2 (1)	2(1)	2 (1)	2 (1)
Forest Plan Amendments ⁵						
SOILS			Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E
Site-specific amendment – number of amendments			1	1	1	1
FISHERIES/WATER QUALITY			Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E
Site-specific amendment - number of amendments			4	4	4	3

¹ Appendix E contains unit-by-unit prescriptions and full treatment type descriptions.

² Temporary roads would be decommissioned within one to three years of construction.

³ Road reconditioning covers a range of activities, such as surface blading, drainage repair, roadway brushing with occasional culvert installations, slump repairs and stabilization work.

⁴ Project road decommissioning covers a range of activities, from recontouring to abandonment. Soil restoration includes roads and adjacent impacted areas (acres).

⁵ Appendix D contains full description of proposed amendment